

Bon Homme Democrat Christmas Is Thursday

TYNDALL — The “Bon Homme Old Fashioned Democrat Christmas: will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday Jan 5, at Gibbys Corner Bar in Tyndall.

House Minority Leader Bernie Hunhoff and Senate Minority Leader Jason Frerichs will attend, and congressional candidates Matt Varilek and Jeff Barth have been invited to attend. All are welcome to attend.

Diabetes Support Group To Meet Jan. 9

The Yankton Area Diabetes Support Group will meet from 1-2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, in the Benedictine Center Cafeteria. The Benedictine Center Cafeteria is on the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital campus, Benedictine Center Building (old hospital) on first floor.

Katie DeBoer, dietetic intern, will present “Meal Planning with Diabetes.”

Everyone is welcome and a snack is provided.

DivorceCare Session To Begin Jan. 9

DivorceCare, a divorce recovery seminar and support group meets in the Chapel of Calvary Baptist Church, 2407 Broadway in Yankton, at 7 p.m. each Monday. A new 13-week session begins on Monday, Jan. 9.

If you are divorced or separated, you are invited to attend. DivorceCare provides the opportunity to experience healing, learn important life skills following divorce and do so in a safe context of strong support with others who do understand.

DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics.

Seminar sessions include “Facing My Anger,” “Facing My Loneliness,” “Depression,” “New Relationships,” “KidCare” and “Forgiveness.” Contact Keith or Denise DeJong at 605-664-5252 if you have any questions.

If you have children ages 5-12, a DivorceCare 4 Kids (DC4K) program is also offered on Monday nights at Calvary in the preschool area at 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 9.

DivorceCare4Kids is the only peer support group, under the supervision of trained adults, in the area for children whose parents have experienced divorce.

You can call the church at 605-665-5594 for further information or to register your children.

Volin Church To Participate In Fundraiser Jan. 9

Faith United Lutheran Church of Volin will participate in a fundraiser at the Yankton Pizza Ranch, 1501 Broadway, on Monday, Jan. 9. Proceeds will benefit the Volin Food Pantry.

A Family Fun Night will be held during the hours of 5-8 p.m. The Volin Food Pantry will receive 15 percent of the total sales during this time. The Faith Lutheran confirmation students will be bussing tables.

Bring in the coupon (one per person.) If you need more, you may duplicate them or call Faith United.

Huron Program To Honor Donors, Recipients

SIoux FALLS — Huron High School is taking the important step of informing youth and the community about the gifts of cornea, tissue, and organ donation. Donation provides others with the gifts of sight, health, and life.

On Tuesday, Jan. 10, the South Dakota Lions Eye & Tissue Bank, Huron Regional Medical Center, and Huron Lions Club will partner to honor area donor families and transplant recipients. The ceremony will take place during halftime at the Huron-Yankton boys' varsity basketball game at Huron Arena. The game starts at 7:30 p.m.

The South Dakota Lions Eye & Tissue Bank Community Basketball Programs are a state-wide effort to remember those that chose donation and honor their families for the compassion and concern shown for others during a very difficult moment in their lives. Cornea, tissue, and organ transplant recipients are recognized for their courage and fortitude.

It is also an opportunity for recipients to salute donor families on behalf of all recipients.

The program's goal also is to educate and inform all ages about the tremendous difference the gift of donation can make for the thousands of people awaiting transplants.

Currently, 110,000 men, women, and children are awaiting an organ transplant that will save their lives. Thousands more are in need of corneas and tissue to restore sight, health, and mobility.

South Dakotans can register or re-register to be eye, tissue, and organ donors when they renew their driver's license. Those who want to give the gifts of sight, health, mobility and life can also sign up to be a donor at www.donatelifesd.org.

Dog Rescued From James River

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Luckily, Murphy's Law didn't hold true Monday when a Yankton dog — named Murphy — fell into the James River.

The Yankton County Sheriff's Office received a call at 11:41 a.m. that a large dog had been observed falling through the ice south of Kelly's Cove near Shreve's Trailer Court.

Within 15 minutes, Yankton Search and Rescue arrived at the scene to help Murphy, who could not escape the icy clutches of the river.

“There were a few people gathered around, and that's one of the reasons we go after animals,” said Jake Lammers, director of the search and rescue team. “We don't want someone else to go after them and become the second victim.”

According to Yankton County Emergency Management Director Paul Scherschligt, Murphy had fallen through the ice near the center of the river, about 50 feet from the shore. He said the current had cut out a portion of the river and then re-froze, making it very thin and dangerous.

“About half of the river was plenty thick to walk on, but the other side where the current was, it was a thick slush,” Lammers added. “Once (Murphy) stepped on that, he fell through.”

Brian Blaaid, the dive captain, ventured into the river to retrieve the dog. He had to go downriver a couple hundred feet from Murphy. There, the ice was thicker and he could pull the dog



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Yankton Search and Rescue deployed to the James River Monday morning to save Murphy, a large dog who had fallen through the ice. He was returned home safely following the incident.

out.

Within about 25 minutes of the arrival of Yankton Search and Rescue, everything had gone right, and Murphy was once again on dry ground.

“(Murphy) was pretty heavy and wet,” Lammers said. “He just laid on the ice when Brian got him out. But after he got ashore, the dog did stand up. He went up to the (nearby house where he lived). We were going to wrap him up in a blanket, but he went right through the doggy door and into the house.”

Members of the search and

rescue team knew the owner, and soon she was home to take care of Murphy.

“She said a million thanks to everyone who helped out,” Lammers said. “It worked out well that someone spotted him, because he couldn't have survived out there very long.”

The preparedness of the team to conduct the rescue could not have been better, according to Lammers.

In December, Yankton Search and Rescue completed a training course on ice rescues.

“Team members were trained

in different types of rescues for the different types of ice that can be found on bodies of water,” Scherschligt said. “Rescuers were put in special suits and then had to go into the freezing water to be trained in self-rescue and rescuing a victim. Each team member during the training was made to be a victim or the rescuer.”

Thanks to that training, rescuers were able to stave off Murphy's Law.

“Everyone knew what to do,” Lammers said.

Building

From Page 1

“We had some good, large commercial permits,” said Joe Morrow, Yankton's building official. “Menards, of course, is the big one.”

The home improvement store project is valued at \$6.8 million and is expected to open this spring.

Other large commercial undertakings in 2011 included the L&M Radiator addition, Northtown Automotive, the Verizon Wireless communication tower, the Vision Care Associates addition, the National Field Archery Association addition, the Lewis & Clark Medical Office building and the Burger King remodel.

Morrow said that strong commercial activity should continue in 2012 with Avera Sacred Heart Hospital planning a large addition and the possibility of outlots being developed on the Menards property.

City Manager Doug Russell said he has not received any confirmation regarding plans for the

outlots but anticipates development sooner rather than later.

“Developers aren't making money off of what is out there now,” he said. “They are going to make their money by people leasing (the outlot) space from them. It's in their best interest to get things leased up and moving forward.”

An August hail storm spurred a lot of shingle, window and siding projects. More than 660 permits valued at \$5.5 million were issued.

The city saw a similar boost in activity after a July 2009 hail storm, when such work was valued at \$5.4 million. Those repair projects continued well into 2010, and Morrow said a similar pattern can be expected this time around.

Residential remodels and additions were valued at \$420,900, while permits issued for new residential garages (including additions to garages) were valued at \$282,300.

Building of single-family homes declined for the fifth year in a row. A peak of 54 homes was reached in 2004. By 2010, that number had fallen to 18. In 2011, 16 homes were built with an estimated valuation of \$2.9 million.

However, the average cost of those homes increased from \$171,800 in 2010 to \$182,900 in 2011.

The single-family home trend was accompanied in 2011 by a decline in multi-family units built. Six units with a total value of \$997,500 were constructed in 2011, down from 16 units in 2010.

“We definitely like to see that on the upswing, but things do go in cycles,” Russell said about the decline in housing units being built. “We would anticipate that those will pick up as we go into 2012 and 2013. Usually you'll see one development spark, where you may end up having 15 starts in just that one development. Those could occur at any time once that market pressure emerges.

“While we are seeing a trend in multi-family and single-family housing units go downward, we're seeing great investment in our commercial and industrial side,” Russell continued. “I think, overall, it's promising.”

Morrow agreed.

“The last two years we've had in commercial development should translate into some new homes being built,” he said.

Survey

From Page 1

from 52.6 in November. The survey uses a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Goss says that any score above 50 suggests growth while a score below 50 suggests decline for that factor.

Even though the current economic conditions appear weak, business leaders are optimistic about the future. The survey's confidence index jumped to 59.2 in December from November's 49.1, suggesting business will pick up starting six months from now.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The outlook for jobs appears flat across the region with the employment index remaining unchanged at 49.5 in December.

“Our surveys over the last five months indicate that job growth in the region has slowed significantly,” Goss said.

Inflation will likely continue to be a concern. The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of raw materials and supplies, rose in December to 62.4 from November's 60.9.

OBITUARIES

Gertrude Bowers

MENNO — Gertrude H. Bowers, age 94 of Menno, SD passed away January 1, 2012 at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 5, 2012 at the Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, with Rev. David Ellis officiating. Burial will be in the Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland, at approximately 1:15 p.m. Thursday afternoon.

Visitations will be 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, at the Aisenbrey-Opahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, and then one hour prior to the service.

Gertrude was born September 18, 1917 in Menno, SD to Gottlob and Mamie (Eaton) Haar. Gertrude grew up in Olivet, SD. She was baptized October 14, 1917 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Menno, SD. She married Earl (Curly) Bowers in June of 1936. They resided on



Bowers

Citizens; playing pinochle, clowning with a ladies group and whistling with her band. She loved children and they loved her, especially her nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews.

In 2009 she moved to the Menno-Olivet Care Center where she resided until her death. She was thought of fondly at the home, winking at the staff and calling everyone “kid.”

She leaves to mourn, her sister, Marietta Rames of Menno, SD; nephews, Steve (Bev) Haar of Grand Junction, CO; Mark (Peg) Rames of Olivet, SD; Doug

farms in the Olivet area until retiring in Olivet in 1970.

After the death of her husband in 1979, Gertrude moved to Yankton. While there, she was active with Senior

Michel of Devils Lake, ND and nieces, Trudi (Mark) Schaeffer of Olivet, SD, Glenda (Mike) Hood of Papillion, NE, Kandace (Mike) Spence of Dothan, AL, Sheila (Alan) Russell of Rockaway Beach, OR, and many great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl; brothers, Harold and Howard Haar; sister, Ruth (Haar) Michel, two infant sisters, Irene and Dortha, brothers-in-law, Earl Rames and Lynn Michel, sisters-in-law, Nellie and Gladys Haar, and two nieces, Myra Deters and Dorene Michel.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 4, 2011

AISENBREY
OPSAHL-KOSTEL
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
 Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Mary Winger

Mary K. Winger, age 82, of Yankton, SD passed away Sunday, January 1, 2012 at her residence under hospice care.

Memorial services will be 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening, January 5, 2012 at the Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Yankton, with her son David Dipple officiating.

Friends may call beginning at 5:00 p.m. and continue until service time Thursday evening.

Mary was born on May 8, 1929 to Virgil and Cora Thaxton in Gibsonburg, Sandusky County, Ohio. Mary passed away peacefully at her home on January 1, 2012 in Yankton, South Dakota.

She was one of nine children and was the proud mother of four children, nine grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.



Winger

strongly attached, the best of friends.

Many knew her as she worked at McDonalds for eighteen years in Yankton.

She is survived by two sisters, Juanita Neer and Helen Peterson; sons, David Dipple (wife, Debbie, their children: Todd, Chad, Amy, great grandchildren: Ciara, Gavin, Landon); Mark Dipple (wife, Rhonda, children: Sean, A.J., Jen-

nifer, great grandchildren: Kelsey, Kathleen, Margaret); daughters, Lori Godwin (husband, Rick, children: Jason, great grandchildren: Luke, Ben); Janice Hanson (along with Keith Zessin, children: Ryan, Bradley, great grandchildren: Cole, Landon, Grace).

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, one grandson, three brothers and three sisters.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to the Avera Sacred Heart Home Care/Hospice.

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OPSAHL-KOSTEL
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
 Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Joan Maier

Joan Marie Maier, 70, of Yankton died unexpectedly Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10 a.m.

Friday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with the Rev. Ron Johnson officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Leona M. Barber

2:00 PM, Thursday

Wintz & Ray Funeral Home
 Yankton

Vicky (Milander) Kennedy

10:30 AM, Saturday

Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Coleridge

WINTZ & RAY
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